



JANUARY, 97

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

## GARS Member Of The Month Suzanne Farr

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

*Due to a family emergency our regular HOM columnist Karl Phillips, N4JON was unable to go the column this month. I volunteered myself to take over for Karl and tried to decide on a GARS member for the column. Actually it was my wife that came up with the idea to feature an associate member so this month we have the GARS Member Of The Month.*

This month's featured club member is Suzanne Farr, our GARS Apparel Manager and Christmas Party Chairperson. Suzanne grew up in the Sunshine State down Miami Beach way. She attended Miami Beach Senior High School and Miami-Dade Community College.

After leaving school, Suzanne went to work for a cruise ship catering company in the Dade County area as an executive assistant. After getting a taste for the business, Suzanne took a position with the cruise ship company in pursers office. Suzanne decided to pursue other business horizons after

discovering that she suffered from sea sickness.

Suzanne joined the Army, where the floors didn't move quite as much. Her MOS in the Army was 51M, she says for all you civilians out there this means she was a fire fighter. Her billet in the military took her to Fort Lewis, Washington where she met young John Farr. This was Suzanne's first exposure to amateur radio. She says she remembers being awakened in the wee hours of the morning by John shouting "CQ CONTEST, CQ CONTEST, CQ CONTEST" over and over.

John and Suzanne got married in June, 1994 in Miami. Suzanne's memories of her wedding reception include her standing outside the reception hall after throwing her bouquet waiting on John to appear for the garter ceremony. She noticed the maître de trying to get her attention and motioning her over. She was then told that John had slipped on some water while reaching for a

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## The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

The New Year is here and we have a lot to do in 1997 if we are to stay on top of things as an active club. We are off to a good start with the teaching of the Technician and General Class license starting this month as well as a Morse code class. These classes offer an opportunity to many individuals who otherwise would not have the chance to become amateur radio operators. They also offer an opportunity for those in the club to upgrade themselves to a higher class license which is a wonderful way to get off the VHF/UHF bands and into the world of extended communications.

Our Christmas party was a success as we had over 80 persons attending and it sure was a

pleasure seeing all those friendly faces out there in the room having such a good time. The food was great and we were entertained with some great music by Kevin McClure, KF4HFN with his one man band of music selections. The GARS Ham Of The Year was awarded to David Adcock, KA4KKF a very deserving recipient of this once a year award given out by the GARS members. We all had a good time and we wrapped up the year end with style and grace.

This is the month for nominations for new officers to take over at the end of the February meeting. So far we have Ike Chapman, KE4GYM and David Adcock,

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**THE GARZETTE**

**THE GARZETTE** is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 903-6789, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing **THE GARZETTE**.

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## David Adcock, KA4KKF Named GARS Ham Of The Year

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

David Adcock, KA4KKF was named as the **GARS** Ham Of The Year for 1996. President Howie Gould, W4NVF made the presentation of the award at the **GARS** Christmas Party held on December 20.

During his remarks when presenting the award, Howie praised David for his devotion to the club and club activities during the past year. Howie cited David's help to other hams in the club and his volunteer spirit in getting club activities off and running as some of the examples of David's leadership.

David is currently serving as **GARS** Membership Chairman after serving two consecutive terms as Activities Manager. David has announced his intention to run for the **GARS** presidency.

The **GARS** Ham Of The Year award was initiated in 1994 to recognize those individuals that have contributed to the advancement of amateur radio and **GARS**. The award is open to all club members except those currently serving on the executive committee. The award is voted on by the executive committee based on nominations received from the membership.

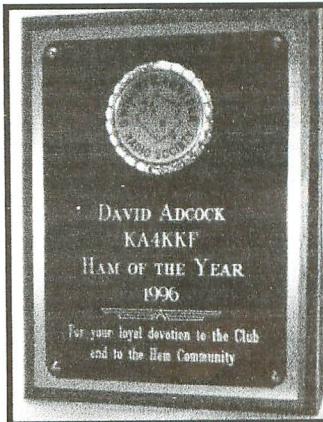
Previous winners of this award were Duane Hanson, KD4KCR in 1994 and Cheryl McClure, AE4HN in 1995.

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**GARS** President Howie Gould (left) presents David Adcock with the 1996 Ham Of The Year award.

Photo by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



The **GARS** Ham Of The Year Award.

Photo By Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Random Ramblings

"Strange as it may seem, my life is based on a true story."

&gt;&gt;&gt; Ashleigh Brilliant

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## The President's Pen

*(Continued from page 1)*

KA4KKF running for president. We will be looking for more nominations for the other offices and any more wishing to run for president.

I think I have served the club well for 3 terms and I now must move on to other things and leave the business of running the club up to our chosen candidate to replace me. I will become an automatic director under the bylaws and will have some say in club matters if I so wish, although I will no longer have a vote on the executive committee. I will probably stay on as repeater chairman if so asked by the new president as there is lots to do in finishing the job we started 3 years ago.

Our club is great and we are doing fine all the way around. We are attracting new members and if we continue our activity schedules, we should continue to be one of the best clubs in the area. We are never too large a club to not listen to our members for it is the members that we rely upon for all functions of the club. Without the full support of the members, we would not be where we are today. Thanks to all who volunteer for various club activities and we encourage others to come forward and help when the challenge presents itself. Many thanks go out to Suzanne Farr for her organization of the Christmas party. She is indeed a great asset to our club and she is going to get a ham ticket I am told in the near future.

I hope to see a whole bunch of you members at the next club meeting at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. In the meantime, take care and good dx-ing.

73,  
Howie, W4NVF

## Proposed Bylaw Change

The following change to the **GARS** bylaws is being proposed by the executive committee. This change is being proposed in preparation for the club to file for non-profit status.

Section B.1 currently reads as follows:

Any person interested in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership in GARS.

Section B.1 would be changed to read as follows:

Any person regardless of race, creed, national origin, or religious affiliation, and having an interest in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership in GARS.

Pursuant to Section G.1 of the bylaws this change is published in the current issue of the newsletter and shall be voted on at the January club meeting.

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### Random Ramblings

"Never judge a book by its movie."  
    >>> J. W. Egan

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be."  
    >>> Unknown

"Somebody has to do something, and it's just incredibly pathetic that it has to be us."  
    >>> Jerry Garcia

"Last night somebody broke into my apartment and replaced everything with exact duplicates... When I pointed it out to my roommate, he said, "Do I know you?"  
    >>> Steven Wright

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### 1996-1997

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## A Look Back At Amateur Radio

By Howie Gould, W4N VF

Last month I talked about how ham radio used to be and lest you not get the message right I would like to further discuss some of the things that I found over 40 years ago when I first came into the hobby. Yes things were different then, there were no solid state devices around and SSB was just a new baby being born. We amateurs in those days prided ourselves in the high fidelity AM systems that we could muster up. There was full plate modulation of the final RF amplifier stage and a less fidelity but more efficient screen AM modulation circuits around in those days.

The class of operation was mostly type C that was a form of biasing. The rigs were keyed by keying the cathode legs of the tubes and you had to have good filtering to get rid of the key clicks. In those days, the ARRL handbook was a bible and source of building that practically anyone who was a bona fide ham used to build various circuits anywhere from complete receivers to transmitters and all kinds of accessories. The Radio Shack was a good source of small components and they were also in the new and used radio equipment market at that time.

There were many manufacturers around making radio equipment and all were American made. One in fact was a Cadillac of radios and that was Collins out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa one of the finest radios ever made but also one of the most expensive. As a young new ham and feeding a large family, I could not afford the prices of some of the equipment then, so I built up my own home brew equipment for my station. There were suppliers like Millen, Miller, and Hammarlund around who could supply you with switches, variable capacitors, coils and other parts to make up a radio



station. You needed chassis punches by Greenlee and circle cutters to cut through the aluminum chassis and a zillion other gadgets that became part of the toolbox, which I still have today.

The most favorite piece of test equipment was a Simpson model 260 and we had to have a good supply of meters around. I am talking about round meters, square meters, I mean meters. voltage, amp, RF type because you could not build stuff without knowing what kind of juice you were running at all times in side the beast. The multi-type meters you see on the new rigs were just not around then so you had to use separate voltage and amp meters. We used crystal markers to know where our band edges were. The most universal that was supplied with each receiver was a 100 KC marker. Outboard VFO's were a must if you wanted to change frequency and most drifted some until they warmed up. A chirp free CW signal was on each hams menu for good operating practice and of course a drift free carrier was preferred but was not that easy to achieve.

A novice class license was good for one year only and if you did not upgrade, you were out of luck. You were also limited to 75

watts DC input to the final RF stage and you had to be crystal controlled meaning that you picked a limited amount of frequencies to use and hope that other novices would use the same crystal or rock as we called them then. Not many novices knew how to listen on other frequencies when calling a CQ a simple task enough if you wanted to work the whole novice band with one rock.

AGI beams were a luxury then and to some extent the same today at going prices. But if you were lucky enough to be in a hot sun spot cycle and I have been in a few, then you were in good shape for working the world with no more than a long wire strung up.

Radio equipment was large and bulky and you needed a good-sized tabletop to spread it out on. The VHF/UHF equipment was also huge and there was a race on by tube companies to see who could get the highest frequency cut off in their tubes a most interesting situation. The hams were also striving to go higher and higher in frequency to get away from the low frequency congestion and a lot of experimentation took place and all for the better as you can see by today's standards. Today you can stick your finger inside a solid state rig that runs on 12 volts DC supply and never once get killed. You may receive a bit of a kick if you touched the final RF stage in transmit mode but that would be the only place that you would experience any bite. Not so in those early days, you better keep one hand in your pocket and never mess with the final stages with the juice on or you would get fried. The exciter stages were no less evil either when your running anywhere from 270 volts to 3000 volts DC in the various stages. Brother you better

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## A Look Back At Amateur Radio

(Continued from page 4)

pay attention.

As you can see, all of the above kept you on your toes and you just had to learn something because that is the way it was. If you were to survive in the hobby, you just had to be a tinkerer of sorts. If you did not know too much, you could always go visit a local ham friend for a few nights and get some lessons on how to build and sort things out. We as hams have very little to talk about today when it comes to our favorite radio because we know very little about what is inside the one we own. We talk about the external features it has and that's about it, no more, no less.

There is something big missing in our hobby and we are the losers for to replace how it used to be. We are talking less about radio and its power to cut through the air from point A to point B. We are more interested in the price of a new rig than the question of what can I do with this piece of wire if I hook it up to the output of my rig? If I open my rig can I tell where the audio circuits are and where the final RF stage is? If I blow a fuse inside can I replace it? What if a simple audio gain control goes bad can I replace it? What if my meter sticks can I fix it? Do you see any trouble shooting guides that came with your new rig? Of course you don't, why would they include any complicated information for you to digest?

The manufacturer is the boss these days and the name of the game is sales. Service of the product is in the bag for they control it unless you want to try an outside source like some of you may know in the area. Have you seen their prices? You could almost buy a new rig for the charges they slap

on you.

What is the solution? I really don't have an answer except to say we need to concentrate our efforts more on the radio and what's inside not the outside. Or maybe it's not important to most of us out there working our radio. Maybe talking to another station state side or a foreign country will make us feel good about the hobby and that's all we need to do to satisfy us is to sit down, turn it on and talk.

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### Random Ramblings

"If an elderly but distinguished scientist says that something is possible he is almost certainly right, but if he says that it is impossible he is very probably wrong."

>>> Arthur C. Clarke

"I have opinions of my own, strong opinions, but I don't always agree with them."

>>> George Bush

"Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home."

>>> Bill Cosby

"Someday we'll look back on this moment and plow into a parked car."

>>> Evan Davis

"The age of chivalry is past. Bores have succeeded the dragons."

>>> Benjamin Disraeli

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## How About That

By Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Did you know that Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan who were the pilots of the Voyager aircraft that flew around the world without landing were hams.

Jeana, KB6LQR and Dick, KB6LQS, both got their licenses in 1986 just before the epic flight in December of that year (can it be 10 years already).

Jeana and Dick wanted to have reliable emergency communications available in case of a problem with their other communications equipment.

Interestingly enough, the Voyager was actually home built and financed in large by individual members of the Experimental Aircraft Association. The Voyager holds three of the world's eight absolute tropospheric flight records. The US Government holds four records and the other one is held by the Russian Government which makes the Voyager records even more incredible since the project never had the overwhelming resources available that the other projects had.

There are many hams in the EAA and they provide an invaluable communications service at the annual fly in at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This is the largest gathering of light aircraft and rebuilt military and antique aircraft in the world. If you would like to more than 14,000 aircraft parked around a single airport, try Whitman Field in Oshkosh in July.

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## GARS Member Of The Month Suzanne Farr

*(Continued from page 1)*

dessert on the buffet table and had injured his ankle. They quietly slipped Suzanne through the kitchen, who was in a white wedding gown with a six foot train, to the office where John sat with his foot propped up. Suzanne told her father of the situation who then located a friend of his who was an orthopedic surgeon and asked him to check John's ankle. Suzanne then had to take John to the emergency room to have his ankle checked, a great way to spend your wedding night.

After the wedding Suzanne and John went back to Washington state where she left the army. They then decided to move to Georgia, so they packed up all their belongings in John's pick up and drove cross-country. This is trip that Suzanne doesn't recommend for those vehicles without air conditioning.

Suzanne and John moved in with his parents while they got settled in the Atlanta area. Suzanne went to work for Automated Alarm Company, an alarm monitoring company, as a central station supervisor. Her responsibilities included managing a staff fifteen people over three shifts that did the actual monitoring of the alarms.

Suzanne and John moved into an apartment off Old Norcross Road in Lawrenceville. They lived there for one year before purchasing their own home in Lawrenceville. Suzanne says it will be easy to find, it's the only house in the neighborhood with antennas all over the place and a truck body in the back yard. Suzanne said that

after they moved in and John went to putting up his antennas, one of their neighbors told him that it would never work to just go ahead and order cable.

She has now taken a position in the accounts payable department with Omni Business Products in Norcross and has been at that position for three months.

Suzanne's big news during my interview was the fact that she and John are now expecting an addition to the family. The baby should be arriving around August 17 and both of them are elated at the news. She would have liked to have had the news to announce at the **GARS** Christmas party but only found out the following week.

My big question to Suzanne during the interview was why in the world does a non-ham do so much for the club? Her response was that this gives her and John time together and let's her share in his interests. She said that they had been members of several ham clubs in other areas before John joined **GARS**. The big difference that she noticed was how friendly everyone was to her and everyone else. She decided that a good way to get involved was to volunteer for the food committee which led to her being at the **GARS** 1995 Field Day for the whole 24 hours assisting Ray Kaplan, KA9GJL and the food committee. One of my memories from Field Day was stumbling in for breakfast to be greeted by Suzanne and her great pancakes. One of her memories was being part of the crowd that slept in Marty Fowler's camper and was awakened by the now infamous Hawaii contact during the early morning hours of Sunday.

Suzanne has since become much more involved with **GARS**, serving as the Apparel Manager and organizing this past year's Christmas party. Everyone that attended the party can see the fruits of Suzanne's work in what was a very successful and enjoyable party. She said that she may

slow down a little with her current condition but she was not going to stop her activities with **GARS**.

Suzanne can be found at almost all **GARS** meetings and most of the club activities like Field Day. Please take the time to go by and introduce yourself and tell her hello, you'll be glad you did.

I know Karl ends his articles every month like this but I really enjoyed doing this interview, Suzanne and I had a great time talking and laughing. This was a lot of fun and if Karl needs a relief in the future it'll be great to pinch hit again. As Karl would say, if you know of someone that you would like to see featured in this column, please give him a call.

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### Random Ramblings

"Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility."

>>> Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"It is difficult to live in the present, ridiculous to live in the future, and impossible to live in the past. Nothing is as far away as on minute ago."

>>> Jim Bishop

"The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected."

>>> Cousin Woodman

"When I say beautiful things, I'm not necessarily living them; when I live them, the beautiful thing is that words aren't necessary."

>>> Brock Tully

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."

>>> Rudyard Kipling

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## A New Beginning For ARES

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

*ARRL Section Manager Dorothy "Dot" Fennel, KA4HHE has appointed Lowry Rouse, KM4Z as ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Gwinnett County. The appointment was just recently announced and became effective January 1, 1997.*

The ARES Emergency Coordinator is tasked by the ARRL to perform duties that include the following:

- 1) Be in charge of all local ARES activities within his/her area.
- 2) Establish and implement an emergency communication program in this local area through a planning committee composed of the EC and his appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC). This planning committee will create and participate in local nets, Simulated Emergency Tests (SET), and emergency training classes.
- 3) Assign AEC's and delegate chosen responsibilities to them.
- 4) Make contact with local emergency officials and establish a relationship with their organizations. This will include establishing, operating, and maintaining an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for the local area.
- 5) Be responsible for maintaining current records on existing ARES members and recruiting new members.
- 6) Report on a monthly basis to the ARRL Section EC which will include reports on any emergency operations, nets, and/or SET's.

These are just some of the duties that are required of the EC so this obviously will not be a one-person operation. Each and every amateur participating will be vitally

important to the overall success of ARES. My immediate goals as EC are:

- 1) Appoint AEC's to perform certain duties as determined by the planning committee.
- 2) Create a local 2 meter net for both ARES and the SKY-WARN program. The ARES in the past has met at 8:00 PM local time on Sunday evenings. With approval from the **GARS** executive committee, this net will be (for the time being) on the second and fourth Monday nights of each month at 9:00 PM local time. This is subject to change as the planning committee is just being formed and decisions concerning net operations will have to be made.
- 3) Update the ARRL Section EC regarding the current ARES roster and those that are still active on that roster. The last update available to me at this time is dated 1994 and I don't recognize many of the names that appear on the list. I will need to find out if those listed are still active and want to continue their participation with the "new guys on the block". Running parallel with this effort we will be recruiting new members for ARES and getting them involved ASAP since "tornado season" is fast approaching.
- 4) Establish relationships with the local emergency and get involved with them. Check out the existing EOC and make plans for updating that facility as required.
- 5) Create a yearly plan to schedule the SET weekend, SKY-WARN basic and advanced training classes, and other associated training classes such as traffic handling in the National Traffic System (NTS).

If you interested in becoming a member of ARES, please contact me for information at (770) 972-7248 or via email at [km4z@bellsouth.net](mailto:km4z@bellsouth.net). As quoted from the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual; "Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve."

I look forward to working with the ARES members and ask for your support, especially the ones "who've been there and done that".

Best Regards,  
Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

### A Note From The Editor's Desk

As you probably have heard by now, I've decided to throw my hat into the ring for the President's office during the upcoming elections. I've also decided that no matter the outcome of the election that I will be stepping down as newsletter editor.

If you would like to take up the position and would like to get some information about how I go about the production routine each month give me a call and I'll be happy to discuss it.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as editor and found the effort a truly rewarding experience. I wish whoever steps forward to take over good luck and will provide whatever help they would request to get them off and running.

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM  
**GARS** Newsletter Editor

## Notes From The ARRL

The items below are reprinted from the *ARRL Letter*, published by the American Radio Relay League.

### Young Hams Up

The FCC reports 2638 new hams during November 1996. There were 306 more new licenses age 21 and younger in November than during October.

### SOLAR REPORT BACK IN THE DOLDRUMS

Solar seer Tad Cook, KT7H, in soggy Seattle, Washington (where the sun has been absent of late), reports: Solar activity is down over the past couple of weeks, as we settle back into conditions consistent with the bottom of the solar cycle. This comes in the wake of the recent, probably final upsurge in activity from the dying Cycle 22.

Looking at the long term, recent data show that sunspot numbers probably bottomed out around June or July of last year, but should return to late-1994 levels around June of this year. Some projections show that by August, sunspot numbers could be about three times what they were during the same month a year earlier, and by December about four times the average for December, 1996.

For the ARRL RTTY Roundup this weekend, look for slightly rising solar flux to the mid-70s, with a possible small bump in geomag-

netic activity coming Monday, January 6. Based on the 27-day solar rotation, the flux is expected to rise to around the mid-80s by January 14, then drop below 80 a few days later, bottoming out in the low-70s from January 17 through the end of the month.

Recently 15 meters has seen some improvement, although a lot of the observed propagation is north-south, also referred to as transequatorial. Look for openings on 17 through 10 meters during daylight hours, and good conditions on 20 meters. Look for conditions to be best on 20 after sunrise and again before sunset. Forty meters is still a good bet for long and medium distance propagation, and--given the continued low solar activity--look for openings on 80 and 160 meters during the long hours of darkness.

Recently we have been unable to get solar flux numbers resolved to a tenth of a point. This should change soon. Sunspot numbers for December 19 through 25 were 23, 13, 28, 26, 24, 0 and 0, respectively, with a mean of 16.3. The 10.7-cm flux was 87.4, 83, 83.7, 81.5, 79.5, 79 and 77, respectively, with a mean of 81.6. The Planetary A indices for the same period were 2, 2, 4, 6, 10, 3, and 6, respectively, with a mean of 4.7. Sunspot numbers for December 26 through January 1 were 0

every day, which is a mean of 0. The 10.7-cm flux was 76, 75, 74, 74, 73, 72 and 72, respectively, with a mean of 73.7. The Planetary A indices for the same period were 3, 1, 4, 3, 8, 4, and 2, respectively, with a mean of 3.6.

### HELP WANTED READERS NEEDED BY HANDI-HAMS

The Courage HANDI-HAM Center needs volunteer readers to record ham radio books and publications on audio tape. Volunteer readers provide a valuable service to persons with severe physical disabilities and sensory impairments who cannot use regular printed books.

Volunteers should hold an Amateur Radio license and be familiar with hobby terms and expressions. A clear speaking voice and the ability to read the written text of Amateur Radio books and describe the diagrams and pictures are essential.

HANDI-HAMS will provide a tech sheet and a sample tape to new volunteers, as well as a copy of the book to be read and cassette master tapes. Readers will need a good quality cassette tape recorder and a quiet place to record.

Some of the books we would ask readers to tape would be ARRL

(Continued on page 9)

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### Interested in joining **GARS**?

Dues are \$25.00 per year for individual memberships and \$35.00 per year for family memberships. Student and senior citizen memberships are available for \$12.50 per year.

For further information contact **GARS** Membership Chairman David Adcock, KA4KKF at (770)271-9398 or email at [adcock@ilinks.net](mailto:adcock@ilinks.net). More information is also available on the **GARS** web page at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org).

## Notes From The ARRL

(Continued from page 8)

license manuals, special interest Amateur Radio books, and instruction manuals for radios.

This volunteer work can be done in one's own home, at one's own pace, as long as there is a quiet place to read. It is a wonderful way to share Amateur Radio with others!

Please contact the Courage HANDI-HAM System at: Courage Center, HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55422; tel 612-520-0515; fax 612-520-0577; e-mail [handiham@mtn.org](mailto:handiham@mtn.org). Visit the HANDI-HAM World at <http://www.mtn.org/handiham>.--Patrick Tice, WA0TDA

### IARU Grows

Five new members, all in Region 1, joined the International Amateur Radio Union during 1996. New member-societies for Uganda and Mali were announced in April 1996 QST; joining them later in the year were the Tanzania Amateur Radio Club, the Association Radio Amateurs of Moldova, and the Tajik Amateur Radio League. This brings to 151 the number of countries and separate territories that are represented in the IARU.

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## GARS Celebrates Christmas

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM  
Photos By Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

The **GARS** Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 20 at the Falcon Inn in Suwanne and was attended by over 80 people. We all owe a big thank you to Suzanne and John Farr for organizing this year's party. It was an overwhelming success due to their hard work and planning.

Dinner was a buffet served by the Falcon Inn staff and included tossed salad, roast beef, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetables. The dessert table looked really inviting with cheesecake and several chocolate cakes but Howie and I stuck to the fruit.



Kevin McClure volunteered his services as DJ, complete with spotlights provided music. Kevin did a great job of playing tunes mixing dance music with Christmas favorites. For those that couldn't make it you missed Howie cutting a rug doing the Macarena, worth the price of admission itself.



After dinner was served, Howie presented **GARS** Service Awards to all those present that had participated in club activities during the past year. (Editor's note: Bill Ahls, KE4EIH has the certificates for those that were not able to make it to the party. See him at the next club meeting to pick up your award.) Howie also presented the **GARS** Ham Of The Year award, see page two for details.



If you missed the 1996 version, make plans now to be the 1997 **GARS** Christmas party and you just might see your smiling face in one of the photos.

❖❖❖

### Work GARS

**REPEATERS**  
2-Meter 147.075 MHz <sup>+600</sup>  
PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz <sup>+5MHz</sup>  
PL 156.7

**TELEPHONE BBS**  
**GARS** Conference in  
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(770) 903-6789

**6-METER BEACON**  
WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at  
50.075 MHz

**PACKET**  
WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
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**SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET**  
Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
**GARS** 2m Repeater.

### MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the **GARS** 2m repeater.

**PACKET RADIO USERS NET**  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the **GARS**  
2m Repeater.

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## Rookie Radio Notes

By Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

This month's subject is simplex communication. But first, I would like to remind everyone about the upcoming ham radio classes. On Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> a Technician license class will begin at Central Gwinnett High School. On the same night a General Class license course will begin. I've heard that code may be included in the General Class if the class members so desire. If you want to focus on Morse code exclusively, that class will begin on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at the same location. You will learn from 0 to 20 wpm. To register for any or all of these courses call the Central Gwinnett Community School at (770) 963-8651. There will be a \$20 fee charged by the school for each of these classes. Our teachers are volunteering their time. Thanks to Kevin McClure, KF4HFN; Jack Herndon, KS4LS; John Veach, KE4D; and Frank Deak, AF4Y.

Now for a few words on 2 meter simplex communication. You will really begin to appreciate the range a repeater gives you when you start trying to communicate via simplex. Simplex means the signal travels from your radio directly to the receiving person's radio. The distance you will be able to transmit depends on what lies between your antenna and the receiving antenna. If there is nothing but air, you can transmit over many miles. If there is an obstacle be-

tween the two antennas, you may not even be able to transmit over a short distance. Let's suppose you have a clear path. What frequency do you use? There are band plans that specify certain frequencies for simplex communication. But let's keep it simple. Unless you are at a hamfest with lots of simplex conversations going on, why not just pick the national calling frequency (146.52)? Lots of hams already have it programmed into their radios. If you are talking to a **GARS** member you could also use the **GARS** Challenge frequency (146.505). Many **GARS** members also have that one programmed into their radio. With a little practice, it's pretty easy to program in any frequency that someone might call out. If they suggest a different frequency than you have programmed, just suggest you go to the one you have programmed. It will save you trouble and they may also have that one programmed.

Per FCC regulations (Part 97.313) you should use just enough power to make the contact. The other person will tell you if your signal is "scratchy" in which case you can bump up the power another notch. Some people regularly use 50W for everything "just in case". I usually leave my radio on 5W unless someone tells me my signal is weak.

How do you know if you can reach someone by simplex? Start

by contacting them on the repeater. While they are talking, push the reverse button on your radio. It's usually marked "REV". This will take you to the input frequency and you will be hearing them direct. If you don't hear them at all, there is still a chance you could talk to them simplex if they increase their power. Push the reverse button again to return to normal repeater operation. Ask them if they can increase their power and then listen on reverse again to see if you can hear them. Another way to get an idea of what kind of range you might be able to work simplex is to use the reverse button while other people are having conversations. If they happen to mention their location, just flip to reverse and see if you hear them. Of course you won't know how much power they are using, but it will give you a general idea of your range. If you have trouble working someone by simplex, then just be glad we have a great club like **GARS** that supplies the repeater so you can talk to people all over the county.

❖❖❖

### Random Ramblings

"Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while I was a suspect."

>>> Steven Wright

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**IC-282AT, 2M**  
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Visit GARS On The World Wide Web

<http://www.gars.org>

Up to date information on club activities,  
officers, committees, announcements,  
**THE GARZETTE** Online, and much more.

Email suggestions for additions to  
[gtomlin@mindspring.com](mailto:gtomlin@mindspring.com) or [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net)

## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

### Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In -145.410(-)

First Wednesday  
HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

First Thursday  
N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

### Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

Second Wednesday  
North Fulton Radio League

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday  
Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday  
East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

3rd THURSDAY

### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Gwinnett Justice And Administrative Center in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the main auditorium Talk In-147.075(+)

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# THE GARZETTE

JANUARY, 97

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on January 16 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

JANUARY, 97

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC  
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 338-8791  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,  
Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758  
St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell  
Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.  
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM  
Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710  
First Presbyterian Church,  
183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
GARS W5YI-VEC  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks  
Trickum Rd, Lilburn

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	GCECG Skywarn Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.